CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for a user to interface with a workflow server, including:

accepting a user command from the user;

passing said user command to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said command;

executing said command, accessing a database if necessary;

returning an XML document back to user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file; and

displaying said XML document using said XSL file.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said accepting include accepting a user command from the user via a web browser.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said user command is in the form of a document containing data tags and/or process tags, said process tags indicating one or more processes to be executed and said data tags indicating information.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said data tags and process tags are XML tags found in said XML name space.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein said XSL file defines a stylesheet for displaying said returned XML document in said web browser.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein said XML namespace contains tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from said database, perform workflow functions, and generate said returned XML document according to logic described in said tags.

7.   A method for a user to interface with a workflow server, including:

accepting a user document from the user, said user document containing data tags and/or process tags;

passing said user document to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said process tags and/or how to interpret said data tags;

executing said process tags, accessing a database if necessary;

returning an XML document back to said user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of said execution of said process tags; and

displaying said XML document using said XSL file.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein said accepting include accepting a user document from the user via a web browser.

9.　　The method of claim 7, wherein said process tags indicate one or more processes to be executed and said data tags indicate information.

10.　　The method of claim 9, wherein said data tags and process tags are XML tags found in said XML name space.

11.　　The method of claim 7, wherein said XSL file defines a stylesheet for displaying said returned XML document in said web browser.

12.　　The method of claim 7, wherein said XML namespace contains tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from said database, perform workflow functions, and generate said returned XML document according to logic described in said tags.

13.　　A workflow server system including:

　　a user interface;

　　a workflow server coupled to said user interface;

　　a database coupled to said workflow server; and

　　an XML namespace, said XML namespace containing tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from said database, perform workflow functions, and generate a return XML document to said user interface, said XML namespace further coupled to said workflow server.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said workflow server further includes an Application Request Server, an XML Execution Engine, and a Workflow Engine, said Application Request Server coupled to said user interface, said XML Exeuction Engine coupled to said Application Request Server and said XML namespace, and said Workflow Engine coupled to said XML Execution Engine and said database.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein said user interface includes one or more web browsers.

16. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a user to interface with a workflow server, the method including:

accepting a user command from the user;

passing said user command to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said command;

executing said command, accessing a database if necessary;

returning an XML document back to said browser window, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file; and

displaying said XML document in said browser window using said XSL file.

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17. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a user to interface with a workflow server, the method including:

accepting a user document from the user, said user document containing data tags and/or process tags;

passing said user document to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said process tags and/or how to interpret said data tags;

executing said process tags, accessing a database if necessary;

returning an XML document back to said browser window, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of said execution of said process tags; and

displaying said XML document in said browser window using said XSL file.